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MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of General Counsel

ATTENTION : [REDACTED] 25X1A

SUBJECT : U-2 Coverage of Cuba

1. In response to your request on 6 February 1961, the following information pertaining to the conduct of U-2 operations over Cuba during the period 9 to 14 October 1962 is provided.

2. Special Group approval for Cuban overflights in the month of October 1962 included the one sortie, forecast by the Central Intelligence Agency, in addition to two sorties carried over from the September approvals. Weather was reviewed daily and the September missions were completed by 7 October 1962. Favorable weather existed on 3 and 9 October; however, no aircraft were available in commission to accomplish the one remaining sortie. Weather was unfavorable on 10, 11, and 12 October. During this period Agency personnel at Edwards AFB, California, supervised the requalification of military pilots in the U-2C. Operational control of Cuban overflight operations was delegated to JCS/SAC on 14 October 1962. An Agency detachment from Edwards AFB was deployed to McCoy AFB, Florida, 13 October to support SAC. Mission 3101 was planned by the CIA and was accomplished as a SAC mission on 14 October 1962, by a military pilot departing Edwards AFB and landing at McCoy AFB.

3. Under ordinary circumstances weather required for successful strategic photographic reconnaissance of denied territory is a forecast for at least 75 per cent of the primary target area to be cloud free. The general area forecast of the Caribbean provided by the U. S. Weather Bureau is inadequate for use in operational planning. Weather data for this purpose

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is obtained from the Global Weather Central located at Offutt AFB, Nebraska. It should be noted here that the specific interest in cloud cover for high altitude reconnaissance aircraft is more concerned with the type and total amount of cloud cover in the target area from the surface to approximately 70,000 feet as opposed to the general interest in ceilings and visibility normally associated with terminal operations at a base of intended landing or departures. It should be noted that under most circumstances some part of the island of Cuba will probably have favorable weather every day; however, when the Agency reported no flying due to unfavorable weather this must be interpreted to mean that less than the required 75 per cent cloud free conditions would exist over the specific areas of interest to the Intelligence Community.

4. I trust the foregoing will satisfy your requirement.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Deputy Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

OSA/EO:RFB:js (11 Feb 63)

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